

towards a practical proposal for air-dropping supplies.

The Canadian Government has sought to assure the military authorities on both sides that relief activities must be regarded in a purely humanitarian context, distinct from military considerations. Neither a daylight airlift to Uli nor daylight air drops to other parts of Biafra need present any military disadvantage. Means must be found to increase substantially the flow of relief supplies. In the absence of any early possibility of doing this, however, it is imperative that existing channels be supported, no matter how limited these may be in the amount of relief they can move.

The Government has decided to respond to requests for further financial assistance to those organizations now involved in relief activities on the separate sides of the fighting lines. It takes that decision conscious of the terrible toll of human suffering which continues and aware of the wish of Canadians to assist in whatever way they can. The Government is therefore making available for relief activities in all parts of Nigeria an additional sum of \$2,250,000. This will be distributed partly to the Nigerian Red Cross and the Nigerian Rehabilitation Commission for their activities in the federally-controlled territory, where an ever-increasing number of refugees must be fed; partly to CANAIRELIEF to assist that organization to continue its flights into Biafran-held territory, and partly to the Canadian Red Cross for support of the International Committee of the Red Cross which, despite the cessation of its food flights, continues its relief activities and medical services on both sides of the fighting lines. The allocations being made now will bring to more than \$5,000,000 the total amount of Canadian Government assistance for relief in this theatre since appeals began in mid-1968 for international assistance. Should ways be found of increasing substantially the relief flow, whether by daylight flights, by air drops or by land or water corridors, then the Government will give its support to such alternatives as a means of feeding more people.

The Nigerian conflict has now been raging for almost thirty months. We hope and pray it will soon conclude. At that time an immense need will exist for massive relief operations and for friendly assistance. When that time comes Canada will be ready to provide its share of whatever may be required by way of food, medical and other material aid and to act, upon request, to help to secure the peace and to contribute to the rehabilitation of the lives of the Nigerian people.